

Appln No. 10/506,294  
Reply to Office Action of October 30, 2007  
Amdt dated November 30, 2007

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): ~~An~~ For an applicator head for a device having an air suction source for applying ~~individual flat material elements~~ labels to objects, ~~the applicator head~~ comprising:

an applicator surface ~~connected~~ for connection to said air suction source and having ~~at least two spaced~~ perforatable, weak locations ~~being recesses having a bottom~~ which can be selectively perforated ~~by hand by a suitable tool~~ to provide holes through the plate in a desired configuration.

Claim 2 (currently amended): An applicator head as in claim 1, wherein the weak locations are regularly arranged ~~on the applicator surface.~~

Claim 3 (previously presented): An applicator head as in claim 2, wherein the weak locations are distributed over the entire application surface.

Claim 4 (currently amended): An applicator head as in claim 1, further comprising grooves ~~on an outside of~~ extending to the applicator surface.

Claim 5 (previously presented): An applicator head as in claim 3, wherein the weak locations are arranged in columns and grooves.

Claim 6 (previously presented): An applicator head as in claim 1, further comprising:

an applicator pad coupled to the applicator surface; and  
a mounting frame releaseable connected to the applicator pad.

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Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (previously presented): An applicator head as in claim 6, wherein the pad receiving means is formed by two C-shaped guide rails that extend in parallel relationship and into which the applicator pad can be reversibly inserted.

Claim 9 (previously presented): An applicator head as in claim 6, further having an abutment means positioned to hold the applicator pad in place relative to the pad receiving means.

Claim 10 (previously presented): An applicator head for an applicator device as in claim 6, wherein the applicator pad is releasably lockable to the mounting frame of a locking device.

Claim 11 (previously presented): An applicator head as in claim 10, wherein the locking device comprises a spring-loaded ball.

Claim 12 (currently amended): An applicator head as in claim 10 ~~or claim 11~~, wherein the abutment means is formed by the locking device.

Claim 13 (previously presented): An applicator head as in claim 6, wherein the applicator pad is formed from a carrier plate and an applicator plate.

Claim 14 (previously presented): An applicator head as in claim 13, wherein the applicator plate and the carrier plate are non-releasably connected together.

Claim 15 (currently amended): An applicator head as in claim 13 ~~or claim 14~~, further comprising a second surface parallel to the applicator surface, the second surface having at least two further weak locations which are aligned with the weak locations at the applicator surface.

Claim 16 (currently amended): An applicator head as in claim ~~13~~ 1, ~~wherein the applicator plate includes means for adapting the applicator surface to the flat material element~~

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wherein the weak locations are perforatable by a tool having a handle.

Claim 17 (previously presented): An applicator head as in claim 13, wherein the carrier plate is provided with a coupling for releasable attachment with the suction air source.

Claim 18 (currently amended): An applicator head as in claim 13, wherein the applicator plate ~~is produced from~~ are comprised of a deformable material.

Claim 19 (currently amended): An applicator head as in claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein the weak locations are arranged in a raster grid configuration.

Claim 20 (currently amended): An applicator head as in claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein the weak locations are arranged in rows and columns.

Claim 21 (canceled)

Claim 22 (previously presented): An applicator head as in claim 13, wherein the applicator plate includes the application surface.

Claim 23 (previously presented): An applicator head as in claim 13, wherein the carrier plate and the applicator plate define at least one hollow space between them.

Claim 24 (previously presented): An applicator head as in claim 14, wherein the applicator plate and the carrier plate are glued together.

Claim 25 (previously presented): An applicator head for a device having an air suction source for applying individual flat material elements to objects, the applicator head comprising:

an applicator surface connected to said air suction source and having at least two perforatable, weak locations being recesses having a bottom which can be perforated by a suitable tool;

an applicator pad coupled to the applicator surface;

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a mounting frame releasably connected to the applicator pad;

the applicator pad is formed from a carrier plate and an applicator plate; and

a second surface parallel to the applicator surface, the second surface having at least two further weak locations which are aligned with the weak locations at the applicator surface,

wherein the further weak locations are separated from the weak locations by a thin material skin.

Claim 26 (previously presented): An applicator head as in claim 18, wherein the deformable material is plastic.

Claim 27 (new): For an applicator head for a device having an air suction source for applying labels to objects: an applicator plate composed of a perforatable material and having spaced perforatable weak locations, wherein only selected ones of the perforatable weak locations are perforated to provide holes through the plate in a desired configuration.

Claim 28 (new): An applicator plate as defined in claim 27, wherein the weak locations are arranged in a grid configuration.

Claim 29 (new): An applicator plate as defined in claim 27 in combination with an applicator head.

Claim 30 (new): Method of making an applicator plate useful in a suction-type label applicator head, comprising:  
providing an applicator plate having spaced perforatable weak areas, and

thereafter perforating only selected ones of the weak areas of the plate to form an operational surface of a desired configuration of holes through the plate.

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Claim 31 (new): Method as defined in claim 30,  
including thereafter assembling the applicator plate onto an  
label applicator head.